

THEA 1310:001 INTRODUCTION TO THE THEATRE

COURSE SYLLABUS

SUL ROSS STATE UNIVERSITY

Summer II

July 9 through August 15, 2019

Class Meets: Monday – Friday, Studio Theatre Classroom, FAB #105

Carolyn Barrientes, M.F.A. Assistant Professor of Theatre

Office: FAB 206C

Email: Carolynbarrientes@comcast.net

Office Hours: TBA

Office Phone: 432-837-8989

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE: An introduction to dramatic texts and dramatic principles, script analysis, and theatrical styles. This course will also prepare students to become knowledgeable audience members with an appreciation for the significance that theatre productions can provide in a given cultural context.

This course offers students an opportunity to collaborate with their classmates as actors, directors, and designers. Students will work together to rehearse, design and perform scenes from culturally significant plays. This course is intended to be an introduction to theatre. No prior theatre experience is required.

REQUIRED TEXTS: *Zoot Suit + other plays* by Luis Valdez. Must bring to class daily during assigned readings.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

1. A working SRSU e-mail account. Check daily, especially before class.
2. A working blackboard account.
3. A 2" notebook binder with pockets to keep all handouts/scripts and notebook paper. I highly recommend that all students take good notes each class period.
4. Other supplies as needed for final exam project - TBA
5. Outside research and regular use of the library.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course, the student should be able to:

*Critically understand the origins, progression, genres, and the development of theatre;

- *Discern the basic responsibilities and roles of theatre professionals;
- *Effectively analyze the basic elements of theatrical design;
- *Communicate successfully written critical assessments of theatrical performances and printed works;
- *Use your creative skills to work on design projects;
- *Analyze the role that theatre plays in contemporary culture, particularly the ways in which theatre addresses issues of gender, religion, race, ethnicity, sexuality, and class.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT MANY OF THE REQUIRED READINGS, VIDEOS, AND PLAYS MAY CONTAIN MATURE CONTENT, EXPLICIT LANGUAGE, DIFFICULT THEMES, AND/OR NUDDITY.

FORMAT OF WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: All assignments must be typewritten in 12-point type. Times New Roman or Ariel font, double-spaced with 1-inch margins, and free of errors. PLEASE PROOF YOUR WORK. You will be graded on both the content and your ideas and the clarity and accuracy of your writing. If needed, I suggest you visit the Writing Center before turning in your papers.

All assignments must be submitted as soon as class begins on the due date. I will not accept late work.

GRADING: Assignments are valued as follows:

Quizzes or other assignments	25%
Sul Ross Theatre Performance paper	25%
Class participation/Class attendance	25%
FINAL EXAM CLASS PROJECT	25%

Grading Criteria:

A= 100-90%

B= 89-80%

C= 79-70%

D= 69-60%

F= below 60%

Students with disabilities needing academic assistance or other accommodations should contact Counseling and Prevention Services, Ferguson Hall 112, 432-837-8203.

University Rules/Regulations regarding plagiarism, dishonesty, and other issues concerning classroom participation can be found in the University Rules and Regulations and Student Handbook.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance and participation: Regular attendance is expected and you should come to class prepared to contribute to class discussion and ask questions of the material. Your participation grade is 25% of your overall grade so keep this in mind and speak up during class and attend daily.

Two (2) unexcused absences will lower your overall grade 9 points. Each subsequent absence will lower grade an additional 5 points. If you miss more than eight (8) classes, you must withdraw from the course or I will drop you with the grade of "F". (Please refer to the absence policy from the Sul Ross State University course catalogue for further details).

Cell phones, texting and engaging in activities unrelated to this class are all strictly prohibited during class time. If I see you using your cell phone during class, I reserve the right to ask you to leave and you will be marked absent.

Sul Ross Theatre Performance Attendance & Analysis: You are required to attend one SRSU play: *Nunsense*, the musical this Summer II Semester. You will be required to write a 2-3 page critical analysis of this production. I will not accept late papers. You must also staple your signed program to your paper with the Director's signature.

Group project: You will work in groups for your final project. Each group must select a scene from one of the plays we read this semester. Scenes must be 5-7 minutes in length and presented to the class on the day of the final exam. Each group will have two – three actors, a director and a designer. The director of each group must meet with his/her actors to rehearse the scene before the final performance. I recommend each group rehearse a minimum of 6 times. All directors must provide the instructor with a detailed rehearsal schedule signed by the actors. Actors must be off book (lines memorized) and work collaboratively with the director to develop the scene as fully as possible. The designer's job is to research, discuss images, language, ideas of the play with the director and actors, create sketches or collages of the costumes for each character, and design a set for the scene. Use your creativity and found objects, etc. Designers are strongly encouraged to attend at least 2 rehearsals. All members of the group are required to read the full play from which their scene is selected. THIS GROUP PROJECT WILL SERVE AS THE FINAL EXAM FOR THIS COURSE. ALL MEMBERS OF THE GROUP MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

(Dates and details are subject to change at Instructor's discretion)

Week 1

- July 9 Review Syllabus; What does Theatre mean to you?
- July 10 Theatre and its Audience: Cultural Collaboration: Theatre & Society
- July 11 Theatre and Society; Discuss SRSU Theatre Performance Paper; musicals
- July 12 Experiencing Theatre: Collaboration of Actor, Audience & Space; **Opening of *Nunsense, the Musical Comedy* at 8:15 Theatre of the Big Bend ... FIRST TIME TO GO SEE THIS PRODUCTION TONIGHT! This paper is due on Monday, July 29 beginning of class.**

Week 2

- July 15 Analyzing Theatre: Thinking and Writing about Live Performances
- July 16 Intro to Luis Valdez and *Zoot Suit Musical*
- July 17 *Zoot Suit* to begin reading in class
- July 18 Understanding the play: A Theatrical Blueprint; Continue reading *Zoot Suit* in class
- July 19 Meet at Library

Week 3

- July 22 Interpreting the play: Understanding Genre, Reading and Writing
- July 23 *Zoot Suit* review for quiz #1
- July 24 *Zoot Suit* QUIZ #1**
- July 25 Begin reading *Bandido*, by Luis Valdez in class
- July 26 Continue reading *Bandido* in class

Week 4

- July 29 Meet at the Library; **SUBMIT PAPER on *Nunsense***
- July 30 Discuss *Bandido* and review for quiz #2
- July 31 *Bandido* QUIZ #2**
- Aug 1 Read or watch in class: *Los Vendidos* by Luis Valdez

Aug 2 Continue discussing *Los Vendedos* by Luis Valdez in class; review for quiz #3

Week 5

Aug 5

***Los Vendedos* QUIZ #3**

Aug 6

Discuss Final Exam Group work in class; review collaboration

Aug 7

Group work in class; discuss roles of each student and choose play/scene

Aug 8

Group work in class; rehearsal process for director, actors and designers

Aug 9

Group work in class/outside of class

Week 6

Aug 12

Group work in class/outside of class

Aug 13

Group work in class/outside of class

Aug 14

Group work in class/outside of class

Aug 15

Final Exam Presentation – Time TBD